Sale of shares by the Public Financial Institutions

259. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public financial institutions have sold a large quantum of shares on the Stock Exchanges particularly during August, 1985;

(b) if so, what is the value of shares sold by the public financial institutions during August and September, 1985;

(c) what is the effect of these sales on the share markets and the investment climate; and

(d) what is the nature of the instructions, if any, given to the public financial institutions to regulate future sale of shares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to d). Information is being collected and to the extent available and permissible under the rules will be laid on the Table of the House.

Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference

260. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR.

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a two-day Commonwealth Finance Ministers' Conference was held at Male on October 1-2, 1985 to discuss the question of protectionism by rich countries and improvement in market access to developing countries; and

(b) if so, what was the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference, *inter alia* expressed concern at the intensification of protectionist pressures and called for rapid and substantial progress on outstanding issues in GATT concerning safeguards, non-tariff barriers, agriculture and textiles which could assist in rolling back protectionism. The conference also called for additional financing, increased flexibility in debt-servicing arrangements and freer market access to exports from developing countries.

International Monetary Fund

261. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRIMATI MAIMOONA SULTAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have foresaken their share in various funds of the International Monetary Fund, including the special Trust Fund;

(b) if so, what are details thereof; and

(c) what are the circumstances leading to this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) The Interim Committee of the Board of Governors of IMF in its 25th meeting held in Seoul, Korea on 6th and 7th October, 1985 considered the question of use of resources that will become available over the period 1985—91 following repayments pertaining to loans made by the Trust Fund.

It was decided at that meeting that the total amount of these resources (about SDR 2.7 billion) which might be supplemented with Funds from other sources, should be used to provide additional balance of payment assistance on concessional terms to the low income countries eligible for IDA resources that are in need of such assistance and face protracted balance of payment problems. India and China voluntarily opted not to avail itself of this facility for the period

1985—91. The main consideration which led to this decision was the grave difficulties faced by the most seriously affected countries, particularly those in Africa who face serious balance of payment problems and need these funds immediately.

Outcome of the Annual General Meeting of World Bank and IMF

262. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 40th Annual General Meeting of the World Bank and IMF was held at Seoul in October this year:

(b) if so, what specific subjects were discussed therein; and

(c) what was the outcome thereof in so far as it relates to India and the Indian sub-continent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In these meetings the subjects discussed were: Annual Report, Financial statements and Annual Audit, Allocation of Net Income, Administrative Budget for FY 1986, Annual Report of Development Committee, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, and Selection of officers and Joint Procedures Committee for 1985-86.

(c) There was no specific outcome in so far as it relates to India and the Indian sub-continent.

Steps to achieve favourable balance of trade during Seventh Plan Period

263. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state what steps are contemplated by Government during the Seventh Plan period to boost exports and minimise imports to obtain a favourable balance of trade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Policy mesures are being continuously evolved for increasing India's exports. These include measures for increasing and diversifying the production, making our exports more competitive finding new markets for our products and processing commodities for higher value realisation. Efforts would be made to gear up these measures further during the Seventh Plan period.

The Government has taken a number of initiatives in the sphere of trade policies, industrial policies and fiscal policies. The current import-export policy which will be operative for a three year period, 1985-88, is designed to introduce an environment of continuity and stability in foreign trade planning. It aims at providing a major thrust towards increased production, both for domestic consumption and exports, and to bring about efficient import substitution. The Government have also decided to elect thrust sectors for export promotion which woud make a substantial contribution to growth in exports over the medium term. Public Sector undertakings are benig involved for greater participation in export efforts. Simultaneous efforts are also being made to step up our indigenous production of importables during the Seventh Five Year Plan period, particularly in sphere of bulk imports

Reward for giving information about Black Money Hoarders and Smugglers

264. SHRI ADINARYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government pay rewards to people who give secret information regarding smugglers and black money hoarders; and